



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mieko TANAKA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1774

Application No.: 09/842,824

Examiner: L. Ferguson

Filed: April 17, 2001

Docket No.: 109358

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING RIDGY RESIN FILM AND RECORDING MEDIUM

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

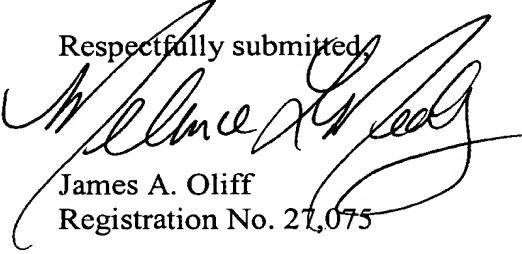
In reply to the October 3, 2002 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 13-21, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of claims 1-21 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

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Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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JAO:MLM/jam

Date: October 23, 2002

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